

## the privilege of singleness

MATTHEW 19:8-12 &amp; 1 CORINTHIANS 7

February 26, 2012

Message 3

VIDEO LEAD IN • PRAY • SIGGY "NOT GETTING IT" • YOUTUBE SEARCHES ON SINGLE(NESS)  
JESUS WAS SINGLE AND NOT DATING • LET IT SINK IN

The Bible doesn't talk about being "single"

but about being unmarried.

CHALLENGE AND PERSPECTIVE FOR SINGLES • FOR OTHERS

## Matthew 19:8-12 (p. 689)

THE NARRATIVE • SINGLE = CELIBATE (EUNUCHS ESTEEMED!)

According to Jesus:

Those who can accept celibacy should.

JESUS CALLS IT SOMETHING THAT IS "GIVEN"

## Jesus on the "Gift" of Singleness / Celibacy

- You were born that way.  
THOSE WITH NO NATURAL DESIRE FOR BIBLICAL SEXUALITY
- You were made that way.  
THOSE WHO BY CIRCUMSTANCES ARE UNABLE (MAYBE SOCIETALLY INELIGIBLE)
- You have chosen it for the sake of God's kingdom.  
FOCUS HEART ON KINGDOM RELATIONSHIPS? FOCUS TIME ON KINGDOM WORK?  
FINDING SATISFACTION IN CHRIST // GREAT WORK: NUNS, MONKS, MISSIONARIES -> PAUL

## 1 Corinthians 7 (p. 796)

VV 1-2 & 6-7 // SEXUALITY = MARRIAGE // PAUL IS EXPERIENCING A "GIFT" CHARISMA FROM GOD!

## Paul on the "Gift" of Singleness / Celibacy

MEANINGS: SPECIAL GRACE / ALL WHO HAVE THAT POSITION / THOSE WITH SELF-CONTROL

- vv. 25-28: Singleness spares you many troubles.  
"THE PRESENT CRISIS" = PERSECUTION?
- vv. 29-31: Marriage, like everything else is temporary.  
PEOPLE ARE ETERNAL, RELATIONSHIPS CAN BE, BUT MARRIAGE ISN'T
- vv. 32-35: Marriage divides your devotion.  
IF YOU ARE MARRIED, BE MARRIED ALL THE WAY. IF YOU AREN'T, THEN BE SINGLE ALL THE WAY.

## The Privilege of Singleness

Those who are not married are emotionally free to build an eternal, undivided devotion to God.

SOME OF YOU ARE SINGLE BUT NOT EMOTIONALLY FREE, AND THAT'S A SIN.  
MY SOPHOMORE DATING, MY MOM TOLD ME THAT IT WOULD HAPPEN FAST

## Take it Home

- Those who can't accept celibacy should think marriage not relationships.
- Those who are not married must embrace celibacy for the moment.
- Everyone should pursue God's Kingdom and His Family to the level they are able.

ILL: MY PRAYER IN MANHATTAN BEACH

THOSE WHO ARE NOT MARRIED ARE EMOTIONALLY FREE  
TO BUILD AN ETERNAL, UNDIVIDED DEVOTION TO GOD.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO BE SINGLE FOR THE SAKE OF THIS UNDIVIDED DEVOTION, BLESS YOU, BLESS YOU,  
YOU ARE STRONGER THAN I, AND IN MANY WAYS, YOU ARE MORE BLESSED THAN I, FOR NO MATTER  
HOW GREAT AND BEAUTIFUL MARRIAGE MAY BE, THE PATH YOU WALK IS THE PATH TAKEN BY JESUS  
HIMSELF.